

EXTRA.



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[L.S.] THOS. R. McINNES.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN THE MATTER OF THE "PUBLIC INQUIRIES
ACT."

COMMISSION.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To THOS. A. SHARPE, GAYLARD H. HADWEN and R. EDWARD GOSNELL, and to all whom the same may in anywise concern,—GREETING :

D. M. EBERTS, Attorney-General. } WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to cause inquiry to be made into and concerning the hereinafter described matters connected with the good government of this Province, and into the conduct of the public business connected therewith, and to obtain for the information and consideration of the Legislative Assembly the fullest and most reliable data possible respecting the said matters, namely :—

(1.) Agriculture in all its branches, including the social, industrial and financial welfare of all classes of persons engaged in agriculture :

(2.) The assessment, levying and collection of taxes on property and income under the Statutes, Chapter 179 of the "Revised Statutes, 1897," intituled "An Act to assess, levy and collect taxes on property and income," including an inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining whether in any case a tax falls, by any means, direct or indirect, upon any person or class of persons not primarily liable for the payment thereof, and any means or measures which may be possible for the prevention thereof :

(3.) The reclamation and the rendering better available for occupation and cultivation of arid areas, and of areas for the cultivation wherof works of irrigation are necessary throughout the Province, the means to be adopted therefor, and the works or classes of works best adapted for the purpose of facilitating and ensuring such reclamation :

(4.) The providing of cold storage plants for the purpose of preserving and rendering marketable the products of the Province, more especially the meat products of the Interior, the classes of products, and the extent to which the establishment of cold storage plants is necessary, the possible locations, and the estimated cost of such plants :

(5.) The preservation of forests, the prevention of forest fires, the utilization of timber belts, re-foresting, and the diversification of tree-growing :

(6.) The reclamation, clearing, draining and rendering fit for the purpose of agriculture all timbered lands, swampy and flooded lands, and lands subject to overflow :

(7.) The rendering more available for settlement, and the measures necessary to be taken for procuring the settlement of, the unoccupied agricultural lands of the Province :

(8.) The extent to which it is expedient to establish provincial experimental works or stations in connection with agriculture in British Columbia, and the class, location and estimated cost of such works or stations :

(9.) The establishment of mutual credit associations under an Act of the Legislative Assembly intituled "An Act for the encouragement of Trades and Agriculture by the Establishment of Mutual Credit Associations" :

(10.) The depasturing of cattle and sheep upon unoccupied Crown lands, the conservation and improvement of pasture generally throughout the Province, and the regulation, promotion and development of the cattle-raising and dairying interests :

(11.) The means of access from places of production to markets and centres of population throughout the Province, means of transport, and rates of carriage, and the means and measures necessary or expedient in the public interest respecting these matters : and

(12.) All other matters directly or indirectly connected with any of the foregoing subjects, and necessary to be dealt with in order to render effective the objects, or any of them, for which this Commission is created.

And whereas in and by the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1897," Chapter 99, intituled "An Act respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters," it is in effect enacted that whenever the Lieutenant-Governor in Council deems it expedient to cause inquiry to be made into and concerning any matter connected with the good government of this Province, or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof, including all matters municipal or the administration of justice therein, and such inquiry is not regulated by any special law, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, by Commission intituled in the matter of the said Act and issued under the Great Seal of the Province, appoint Commissioners or a sole Commissioner for the purpose of inquiry into such matters, and that such Commissioners or sole Commissioner shall, by virtue of such appointment, have and be invested with the rights, powers and functions in and by the said Act set forth, conferred and prescribed :

And whereas it is expedient that for the purposes aforesaid a Commission be issued to competent persons who shall have jointly and severally vested in them all the duties, rights, functions and powers by the said Act conferred upon and vested in Commissioners appointed thereunder :

Now know ye that under and by virtue of the powers contained in and conferred by the said recited Act, and of all and every powers and power vested in us in that behalf, and by and with advice of our Executive Council for the Province of British Colum-

bia we, reposing trust and confidence in your loyalty, integrity and ability have nominated, constituted and appointed, and do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint you the said Thomas A. Sharpe; you the said Gaylard H. Hadwen; and you the said R. Edward Gosnell jointly, and each of you severally, to be our Commissioners for the purpose of holding inquiry into and obtaining the desired data respecting:

(1.) Agriculture in all its branches, including the social, industrial and financial welfare of all classes of persons engaged in agriculture:

(2.) The assessment, levying and collection of taxes on property and income under the Statutes, chapter 179 of the Revised Statutes, 1897, intituled "An Act to assess, levy and collect Taxes on Property and Income," including an inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining whether in any case a tax falls, by any means, direct or indirect, upon any person or class of persons not primarily liable for the payment thereof, and any means or measures which may be possible for the prevention thereof:

(3.) The reclamation and the rendering better available for occupation and cultivation of arid areas, and of areas for the cultivation whereof works of irrigation are necessary throughout the Province, the means to be adopted therefor, and the works or classes of works best adapted for the purpose of facilitating and ensuring such reclamation:

(4.) The providing of cold storage plants for the purpose of preserving and rendering marketable the products of the Province, more especially of the meat products of the interior; the classes of products and the extent to which the establishment of cold storage plants is necessary; the possible locations and the estimated cost of such plants:

(5.) The preservation of forests, the prevention of forest fires, the utilization of timber belts, re-foresting and the diversification of tree-growing:

(6.) The reclamation, clearing, draining and rendering fit for the purpose of agriculture all timbered lands, swampy and flooded lands, and lands subject to overflow:

(7.) The rendering more available for settlement, and the measures necessary to be taken for procuring the settlement, of the unoccupied agricultural lands of the Province:

(8.) The extent to which it is expedient to establish Provincial experimental works or stations in connection with agriculture in British Columbia, and the class, location and estimated cost of such works or stations:

(9.) The establishment of mutual credit associations, under an Act of the Legislative Assembly intituled "An Act for the encouragement of Trades and Agri-

culture by the establishment of Mutual Credit Associations":

(10.) The depasturing of cattle and sheep upon unoccupied Crown lands, the conservation and improvement of pasture generally throughout the Province, and the regulation, promotion and development of the cattle-raising and dairying interests:

(11.) The means of access from places of production to markets and centres of population throughout the Province, means of transport and rates of carriage, and the means and measures necessary or expedient in the public interest respecting these matters: and

(12.) All other matters directly or indirectly connected with any of the foregoing subjects, and necessary to be dealt with in order to render effective the objects, or any of them, for which this Commission is created.

To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust, unto you the said Thomas A. Sharpe, unto you the said Gaylard H. Hadwen, and unto you the said R. Edward Gosnell, jointly and each of you severally, together with all the rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of right and by law pertaining, during pleasure.

And we do appoint you the said Thomas A. Sharpe to be Chairman, and you the said R. Edward Gosnell to be Secretary, of our said Commissioners.

And we empower and direct you the said Commissioners, or either of you, to report in writing the facts found by you to our Lieutenant-Governor of our said Province of British Columbia, immediately, or as soon as conveniently may be after you shall have concluded such inquiry, together with the evidence taken before you and each of you, and the opinions which you or either of you may have formed in relation of the matters aforesaid, as the result of such inquiry, and that you do and perform all these matters and things in and about the conduct of the said inquiry as by law in that behalf you are authorised to do.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of the Province to be hereunto affixed: WITNESS, the Honourable THOMAS R. MCINNES, Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Province of British Columbia, in Our said City of Victoria, this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and in the sixty-first year of Our Reign.

By Command.

A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

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